

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 7, 8, and 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner's allowance of claims 3, 7, 8, and 20-22 is appreciated.

In this paper, claims 1, 3, 13, and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 35 and 36 have been added. Claim 35 is a combination of claims 1 and 3, and claim 36 is a combination of claims 13 and 20. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-16, 19, 21, and 22 have been amended for consistency with new claims 35 and 36. Claims 9, 14, 15, 19, and 22 have also been amended to avoid an antecedent basis issue.

The amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendment to the claims which has been made in this Amendment and Response, and which has not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 9-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,039,449 to Dolan et al. The rejection is traversed.

Claims 1 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, the rejection is moot as to claims 1 and 13.

New claims 35 and 36 are a combination of claims 1 and 3, and 13 and 20, respectively, which the Examiner has indicated are allowable. Claims 2, 4-6, 9-12, and 14-19 have been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 35 or claim 36. Thus, claims 2, 4-6, 9-12, and 14-19 are allowable.

Serial No. 10/522,446
Filed: January 19, 2005
Page 7 of 7

Examiner: Steven M. Marsh
Group Art Unit: 3632

Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, and the allowance of claims 2, 4-6, 9-12, and 14-19.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, claims 2, 4-6, 9-12, 14-19, 35, and 36 are allowable over the prior art of record. If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned. Early notification of allowability is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

IAN BODDY ET AL.

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